

Blasdel Affid.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicants: | Pool, et al. | Atty Docket: | 0090-001 (2547/101) |
| Serial No.: | 08/999,297 | Art Unit: | 2164 |
| Date Filed: | 12/29/97 | Examiner: | Akers |
| Invention: | Universal Shopping Center for International Operation | Date: | April 18, 2001 |

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF APPLICANTS' RESPONSE
[37 C.F.R. § 1.132]

Dear Sir:

In support of the accompanying response to the Office Action mailed January 19, 2001, in the above-reference matter, I hereby declare as follows:

1. My name is Hugo G. Blasdel. I am a graduate of the University of California Berkeley with a Bachelor of Arts, 1967; Master of Architecture, 1969; and Doctor of Philosophy, 1972. For the last 30 years, my work has involved computers and, for the last 15 years, I have been the developer of a software program which assists U.S. exporters in meeting the documentation requirements of international trade at minimum cost.
2. At present, I serve on the U.S. Department of Commerce / U.S. Trade Representative Industry Functional Advisory Committee on Customs (IFAC-1). I have also served on the Trade Resource Group advising U.S. Customs on the development of their new Automated Export System. In addition, I was a member of the North American

Trade Procedures Organization team which developed the first IDEF0 based International Trade Model, presented in 1997 to the CEFAC, a trade component of the United Nations.

3. I am familiar with the subject matter of the present application and I have reviewed the rejection of the pending claims 1-17 in the present application by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed January 19, 2001, along with the reference art cited by the Examiner.

4. In particular, I have considered the statements of the Examiner regarding Schell's reference to multiple currencies. Schell's reference to multiple currencies addresses the ability of the software application to be set up for use in a particular country using that country's currency. Schell's reference to multiple currencies does not suggest the determination of a currency in which to obtain the price of a product in a catalogue, as recited in claim 1 of the present application.

5. I have also considered the statements of the Examiner regarding Schell's reference to international edge and import/export processing routines. In regard to the latter, the operative word in the phrase is "processing," a term that implicitly applies to data being imported and exported, not goods being imported and exported. In regard to both, there is no disclosure in Schell of any structure for handling an international trade transaction or, more particularly, the import and export of goods in international transactions.

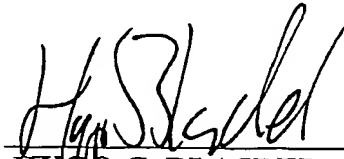
6. Further, I have considered the statements of the Examiner regarding Schell's allusion to a strong EDI function. Schell's allusion does not imply a relationship to UN/EDIFACT, the putative standard developed for electronic messaging in an international trade transaction. Moreover, the fact that a software product may support an

EDI does not mean that the product has any utility in processing international trade transactions. A review of Schell shows that Schell provides no disclosure for the real-time processing of international trade transactions.

7. In regard to Cahn, I have considered the statements of the Examiner regarding Cahn's use of an EDI to generate electronic "invoices." In the area of international trade, the phrase "commercial invoice" is a term of art. Thus, Cahn's electronic "invoice" used in connection with a financial application, which limits the term's context to a domestic application, is distinct from a "commercial invoice" used in an international transaction.

8. Furthermore, while an EDI provides a format by which information in an electronic invoice may be transferred from one computer system to another computer system, an EDI is unconcerned with the compilation of information in a document. Thus, Cahn's use of the phrase "using EDI to generate electronic invoices" is an inaccurate reference to an EDI. An EDI is a system for messaging data, not generating documents.

9. I hereby declare that all statements made herein are of my own knowledge and that all statements made on information and belief are true; and further that these statements are being made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.


HUGO G. BLASDEL

Dated: April 23, 2001

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